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29 October 1983

Khomeini's Bloody Fingerprints

By JACK ANDERSON

THE Ayatollah Khomeini's fingerprints are all over the suicide attack on U.S. Marine headquarters that literally decimated the American peace-keeping force early Sunday morning.

No one can yet say for sure, of course. There's a possibility that the massacre of Marines was pulled off by a terrorist group that deliberately used Iranian tactics to throw suspicion on the fanatical old mullah.

But there is circumstantial evidence that backs up Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's remark that Iranian terrorists may have been responsible for the outrage. And it's more than just the call to a French news agency that claimed that the twin attacks — against U.S. Marines and the French peace-keeping force — were the work of "the Iranian revolution's campaign against imperialist targets throughout the world."

FOR one thing, the attacks had all the earmarks of the bombing of the American Embassy last April: a kamikaze mission by a fanatic driving a truckload of explosives.

The National Security Agency and the CIA both had advance indications that a pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem group was planning to attack the embassy. The intelligence reports also warned that preparations for the embassy attack were supervised by a high official in the Iranian foreign ministry — presumably with Khomeini's approval.

An organization calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Movement — previously unknown — has claimed "credit" for Sunday's bombings. But my intelli-

gence sources say this group could well be part of a known pro-Iranian organization called the Islamic Jihad.

The Islamic Jihad is a prime suspect in the explosion that killed 17 Americans in the Beirut-embassy last April. And its record of violence has been closely followed by U.S. intelligence agencies.

The Jihad claimed credit for a car-bomb explosion that killed 12 persons in the French Embassy in Beirut 18 months ago. It also took responsibility for grenade and machine-gun attacks on American and Italian peace-keeping troops in Beirut last March.

The Jihad is an offshoot of Amal, a Shiite paramilitary organization that has tried to export Khomeini's extremist revolution to other parts of the Middle East.

Specifically, the CIA holds Khomeini responsible for an aborted attempt to set up a revolutionary state in Turkey through the Iranian consulate in Istanbul; a planned coup in the Persian Gulf state of Bahrain; a meeting in Cyprus of Saudi Arabian opposition leaders to plot infiltration of the military and eventual rebellion by the large Shiite minority in Saudi Arabia; and the financing of secret trips to Iran by Moslem students who are given revolutionary training by Khomeini's experts.

WHAT is probably most persuasive, though, is the fact that Khomeini has hundreds of Tehran-trained terrorists scattered throughout the Moslem world — from Lebanon to Indonesia. In Lebanon, Khomeini's terrorists are holed up in the northern mountains around Baalbek.

The Iranian terrorists could not, of course, have engineered the Beirut airport attack without the cooperation of the Syrians, who may have given them munitions and certainly let them sneak in Beirut's back door to do their dirty work. Syria is hoping to drive the international peace-keeping forces out of Lebanon and take control of the country once they have left.

Some CIA analysts suspect that Moscow may have been behind the Beirut carnage to keep the United States from sending Marines into the Caribbean island of Grenada to overthrow the hard-line Communist regime. So in this view, Yuri Andropov tried to checkmate President Reagan by making a decisive move on the other side of the global chessboard.

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